

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 03164 190948Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
MCT-01 /057 W
-----191749Z 081735 /45

R 190855Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3155
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
SECDEF WASHDC
DIA WASHDC
USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 3164

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS PINR SY
SUBJ: ATTEMPTS TO KILL RIF-AT AL-ASSAD

1. WE HAVE OBTAINED FURTHER DETAILS ON REPORTED ATTEMPTS TO KILL RIF-AT AL-ASSAD. REGULAR SOURCE LEARNED FROM OFFICER IN DEFENSE COMPANIES THAT ABOUT TWO WEEKS AGO AUTOMOBILE BELONGING TO RIF-AT WAS SPRAYED WITH BULLETS, BUT RIF'AT WAS NOT IN THE CAR AT THAT TIME. DRIVER OF VEHICLE WAS NOT INJURED. SOURCE SAID THAT AS RESULT OF THIS INCIDENT, GUARDS AT SOME OF RIF'AT'S RESIDENCES HAVE DONNED THEIR OFFICIAL UNIFORMS (THEY NORMALLY WEAR NO UNIFORMS AND ARE DISTINGUISHED ONLY BY THE SUBMACHINE GUNS THEY CARRY), PERHAPS TO INTIMIDATE POTENTIAL ASSASSINS.

2. SOURCE CONTINUED THAT FEW DAYS AGO RIF-AT'S SECURITY UNITS ARRESTED A CAPTAIN SERVING IN DEFENSE COMPANIES WHO, ACCORDING TO INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO SECURITY, WAS
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INTENDING TO KILL RIF-AT. OFFICER, WHO IS FROM HAMA, WAS INTERROGATED AND THEN RELEASED. SOURCE SAID OTHER OFFICERS IN THE DC ASSUME CAPTAIN IS BEING SURVEILLED IN ATTEMPT TO APPREHEND POSSIBLE DISSIDENT CONTACTS.

3. SOURCE CONCLUDED THAT SOME OFFICERS IN DC HAVE BEEN SPECULATING ON RIF'AT'S FUTURE. THEY CLAIM PRESIDENT

AL-ASSAD IS "FED UP" WITH HIS BROTHER'S ACTIVITIES AND IS CONSIDERING THE POSSIBILITY OF ASSIGNING HIM ABROAD AS AMBASSADOR OR MILITARY ATTACHE.

4. COMMENT: HAMA CONNECTION OF THE CAPTAIN DETAINED AND RELEASED SUGGESTS A POSSIBLE SECTARIAN MOTIVATION FOR ALLEGED ASSASSINATION PLAN. WE SEE LITTLE LIKELIHOOD OF RIFAT'S TRANSFER ABROAD IN NEAR FUTURE DESPITE HIS EMBARRASSING REPUTATION AS MOST VISIBLY CORRUPT FIGURE IN REGIME. RUMORS OF RIFTS BETWEEN HAFEZ AND RIF'AT AND OF THE LATTER'S POSSIBLE ASSIGNMENT ABROAD ARE A PERENNIAL PHENOMENON ON DAMASCUS POLITICAL SCENE.
MURPHY

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 19-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Subject: ATTEMPTS TO KILL RIF-AT AL-ASSAD
TAGS: PINS, PINR, SY, (AL-ASSAD, RIF\AT)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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